

**REF: Cllr Marsh SRBC1  
Statement of Stuart Cross**

I have played cricket for Gregson Lane Cricket Club for over 30 years. In 2007 I was Club secretary and in that capacity arranged a meeting at my house on 12 February 2007 which was attended by:

- Stuart Cross - Secretary of Gregson Lane Cricket Club
- David Barnes - Chairman of Gregson Lane Cricket Club
- Andrew Taylorson - Partner at Eckersley & Co (commercial agents based in Preston) and friend of Stuart Cross
- Tom Sharratt - Local councillor
- Jim Marsh - Local councillor


The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an outline development opportunity for Gregson Lane Cricket Club and Gregson Lane Junior Football Club with both the above named councillors and obtain their views. The proposals are summarised in the attached emailed letter sent by Andrew Taylorson to Chorley Borough Council on 17 August 2007 for inclusion in the local development framework.

At the meeting both councillors were asked not to disclose details of the proposals in order not to alert the owner of the land on Bells Lane and risk raising his expectations in term of the value of his land.

I cannot recall anything being discussed during the meeting that is in any way relevant to the Cricket Club's application for a grant in relation to the charity match on 4 May 2009. I relinquished the role of Club secretary at the end of 2008 and was not involved in the grant application or indeed the charity match.

Subsequent to the meeting I notified both councillors verbally, on separate occasions in our local pub (The Old Oak Inn on Hoghton Lane) that the scheme had been included in the local development framework and then later that it had been temporarily "shelved" as a result of the down-turn in the housing market. Unfortunately I cannot recall exactly when these conversations took place.

Jim Marsh has been Gregson Lane Cricket Club's regular umpire this season and has umpired occasionally over the last few years, although I am not sure that he umpired at all last year.

Signed  .....

Dated 4 June 2009 .....

**Thornber And Walker**

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**From:** "Andrew Taylorson" <at@eckersleyproperty.co.uk>  
**To:** <consultation@centrallancscity.org.uk>  
**Cc:** <katherinehowarth@chorley.gov.uk>; <tw@btconnect.com>  
**Sent:** 17 August 2007 14:37  
**Attach:** Scan.PDF; LDF CONSULTATION.doc  
**Subject:** LDF Consultation Representations - Gregson lane Cricket Club

Further to our e-mail of the 8 August 2007 in respect of representations on behalf of Gregson Lane Cricket Club and would be appreciative for a response.

We look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt of these representations.

Andy Taylorson

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ATW

4 June 2009

17/08/2007

*Our Ref* ADT/CF

*Date* 17 August, 2007

Dear Sirs

**LDF CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIONS FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
GREGSON LANE CRICKET CLUB**

We act on behalf of Gregson Lane Cricket Club (The Club) who have a legal interest on land off Gregson Lane used for sport and recreational purposes.

The Club's current site is held freehold by South Ribble Borough Council and leased to the Club by a formal tenancy agreement. A location plan is attached herewith.

The Club and indeed neighbouring residents are affected by antisocial behaviour which has led to the theft and damage of equipment to the Club. The local playground and community centre are we believe, similarly affected.

At the same time, the Club which provides an important sporting and recreational facility to the local community suffers from the poor standard of the playing pitch itself and available changing facilities. These are a point of concern for the administrators of the League (Moore & Smalley Palace Shield Competition) that Gregson Lane Cricket Club are part of and where if it wasn't for the playing achievements of the Club itself, could readily lead to disqualification/suspension of the Club from the League due to the inadequacy of its facilities.

The Club has been offered the opportunity to relocate to a site, currently in agricultural use and within the Greenbelt on Bells Lane. The relocation of the Club and amalgamation also with the local junior football club, which could also be accommodated, would ensure the future and longevity of the Club.

For this possible venture to proceed, however, it would require significant capital investment. The possible allocation of the current cricket pitch, community centre and play area for redevelopment, possibly including residential accommodation, could provide an opportunity to both raise funds to relocate and provide new improved facilities for the local community, as well as providing a capital receipt to the public purse.

*SWH*

*4 June 2009*

These proposals have been raised with local Ward Councillors who, in principle, are supportive to this opportunity, subject to the planning process being adhered to. We understand that the current policy for recreational use in the Greenbelt could accommodate this proposal without a detrimental effect to the Greenbelt itself and that the allocation of the current cricket ground through the local LDF process, could likewise facilitate appropriate development within the existing settlement area of Gregson Lane.

We hope that these representations are positively received through this consultation exercise and via South Ribble Borough Council in particular.

We are happy to provide further information upon request.

Yours faithfully

**A D TAYLORSON**  
Eckersley

*cc Stuart Cross and Head Coach  
Secretary c/o Thornber & Walker*

SWH

4 June 2009.